Approved for Release: 2016/07/05 C06541058

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
~~SECRET~~

COPY NO. 1180
OCI NO. 0307/61

16 February 1961

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY SUMMARY

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE

~~SECRET~~
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

(b)(3)

DECLASSIFIED
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S C
NEXT REVIEW DATE: [redacted]/1987
AUTH: HR 70-2
DATE: 11/21/2008 REVIEWER: [redacted]

(b)(3)

Approved for Release: 2016/07/05 C06541058

Approved for Release: 2016/07/05 C06541058

and may fail to carry out its promises of needed social and agrarian reforms.

Honduras, Argentina, Mexico, and Chile have recognized the new regime, bringing to six the number of Latin American countries which have done so. Venezuela, which had not recognized the previous junta, has indicated that it will wait until elections are held before deciding. (b)(3)

CONGO

Moscow's massive campaign protesting Lumumba's death reflects the Soviet leaders' confidence that this has provided an unprecedented opportunity to exploit their militant anti-colonialist line and underscores the USSR's support for extremist, anti-Western forces throughout Asia and Africa. The Soviet Government's statement of 14 February confidently predicted that Lumumba's death "will awaken to life fresh forces of the national liberation movement in the Congo and in all Africa." The USSR's intention to exploit Lumumba's death to the maximum provides further evidence that Khrushchev is not prepared to forego taking advantage of such opportunities to advance Soviet influence and prestige in the Afro-Asian world in order to avoid offending the Western powers.

However, the Soviet Government's statement did not mention the United States by name and instead placed responsibility for Lumumba's death on the "colonialists, and above all Belgian colonialists."

Soviet propaganda has not directly implicated the US in its condemnation of "colonialists." This has been the pattern of Soviet coverage of the Congo since the US administration took office. The omission of specific references to the US apparently is intended as a gesture of restraint toward Washington. Expressions of shock and regret by President Kennedy and Ambassador Stevenson were reported factually without comment by TASS.

Khrushchev's cordial message of 15 February in reply to President Kennedy's congratulations on the launching of the Soviet Venus rocket probably was intended as a sign that the USSR hopes to prevent reaction to events in the Congo from obstructing an improvement in US-Soviet relations. Khrushchev welcomed the President's offer of cooperation in the exploration of space and other tasks, and stressed that a disarmament agreement would create favorable conditions for solving these "noble tasks."

In contrast to Soviet restraint, Peiping's statement on 14 February specifically condemned the United States along with Belgium for this "vile and cruel attack" against the "cause of national independence of the Congolese and all African peoples."

The extreme demands made in the Soviet statement seem designed to block any Western-backed UN action to deal with the Congo crisis. It demanded:

(1) Condemnation of the "actions of Belgium" as an "international crime." It called for "appropriate sanctions" against the "aggressor."

Approved for Release: 2016/07/05 C06541058

Approved for Release: 2016/07/05 C06541058

(2) Arrest and trial of Tshombé and Mobutu, disarmament of their forces, and removal of all Belgian troops and personnel from the Congo.

(3) Termination of the UN operation in one month and the withdrawal of "all foreign troops" from the Congo.

(4) The dismissal of Hammarskjold. Moscow served served notice that it will not maintain any relations with him and will not recognize him as an "official of the UN."

(5) Assistance to the "legitimate government of the Congo led by acting Prime Minister Antoine Gizenga." The USSR declared that it is ready to "render all possible assistance and support to the Congolese people and its legitimate government."

This uncompromising position seems to preclude any Soviet intention to negotiate a settlement of the Congo crisis. The Soviet leaders apparently hope Lumumba's death will lead to the collapse of the present UN operation through the withdrawal of the remaining Afro-Asian contingents--most immediately those of Morocco, Ghana, and Indonesia. Moscow would vigorously exploit any move to introduce Western troops into the Congo as an attempt to reimpose colonial rule. The Soviet leaders, moreover, would probably believe that direct Western intervention would make it extremely difficult or impossible for the West to marshal moderate Afro-Asian governments in support of a new approach for a Congo settlement.

In addition to the attempt to discredit and terminate the UN operation, Moscow is seizing upon Lumumba's death as a pretext for reviving charges against Hammarskjold--now described as a "miserable lackey of the colonialists." Moscow's violent attack on the secretary general reflects the frustration the Soviet leaders have felt since Lumumba was overthrown and bloc missions were expelled from the Congo last September. The Soviets selected Hammarskjold as the scapegoat for these setbacks.

Moscow's demand for his dismissal does not appear to foreshadow any more drastic action such as a Soviet-led bloc withdrawal from the UN. This latest statement only makes more explicit the position Khrushchev took last fall before the General Assembly when he warned that Hammarskjold's failure to resign would lead the USSR to draw the "necessary conclusions" and threatened to withhold Soviet cooperation with any of his decisions.

Hammarskjold is unlikely to resign as long as he believes he has the support of a majority of UN members, particularly the smaller powers. Withdrawal of recognition of Hammarskjold as the secretary general by the USSR will make UN operations more difficult but not impossible. The USSR will have to conduct usual business with the UN Secretariat, the staff of which is predominantly loyal to Hammarskjold. The USSR voted

Approved for Release: 2016/07/05 C06541058

Approved for Release: 2016/07/05 C06541058

the reappointment of his predecessor, Trygve Lie, in October 1950, linking him to the UN action in Korea. The General Assembly later that year extended Lie's appointment for three years. The Soviet bloc responded by officially ignoring Lie as secretary general for the ensuing two years. This pressure finally forced him to resign in 1953.

According to a high official in the UN Secretariat, Hammarskjold has already ordered the UN force to occupy airfields and other communication centers and to set up military control points in areas of Congolese military action. The UN Command reportedly has been ordered to stop all forces engaged in offensive action but to use force only if force is used against it. Execution of these orders will primarily affect Mobutu's operations in Equateur Province and Tshombé's offensive in northern Katanga. The UN command is now attempting to establish a 50-mile-wide neutral zone on the border of Equateur and Orientale Provinces. However, the small size of the UN units, coupled with the equivocal nature of the directives themselves, will render effective UN control difficult.

Hammarskjold's order to UN forces reflects a heightened sense of urgency as a result of Lumumba's death. Neutralist nations reportedly believe that the Security Council should pass an emergency resolution urging that all possible measures be taken to avoid civil war and calling for the cessation of Belgian and other foreign interference.

Lumumba's death has aroused a general world-wide reaction against Katanga and through association, Belgium and the Kasavubu government. Belgian installations in several capitals, including Moscow, Belgrade, Warsaw, Cairo, Khartoum, and Dakar were attacked by mobs. By 15 February, East Germany, Yugoslavia, Guinea, and Ghana recognized Gizenga, and other bloc and some neutralist states will probably follow suit. The controlled UAR press has reported to Nasir "will fully recognize" Gizenga's regime as "a lawful and national government." Even in some of the moderate French-speaking states which were represented at the recent Brazzaville Conference, there is reported to be criticism of the Kasavubu government.

Prime Minister Nehru of India sent a strongly worded statement to Hammarskjold demanding vigorous and prompt action to punish Lumumba's killers and to stop external aid to Tshombé and Mobutu, who, he said, shared responsibility for Lumumba's death. He offered to send troops to the Congo provided that the UN operation there becomes "effective." Earlier he stated that the goal of the UN Command should be to encourage a "unified, independent, sovereign Congo republic" and that it should take military action if necessary to attain this goal.

Ghana's Nkrumah sent an "ultimatum" stating that Ghanaian forces would be withdrawn from the Congo if all Congolese troops had not been "completely disarmed" in one month's time.

Approved for Release: 2016/07/05 C06541058

Approved for Release: 2016/07/05 C06541058

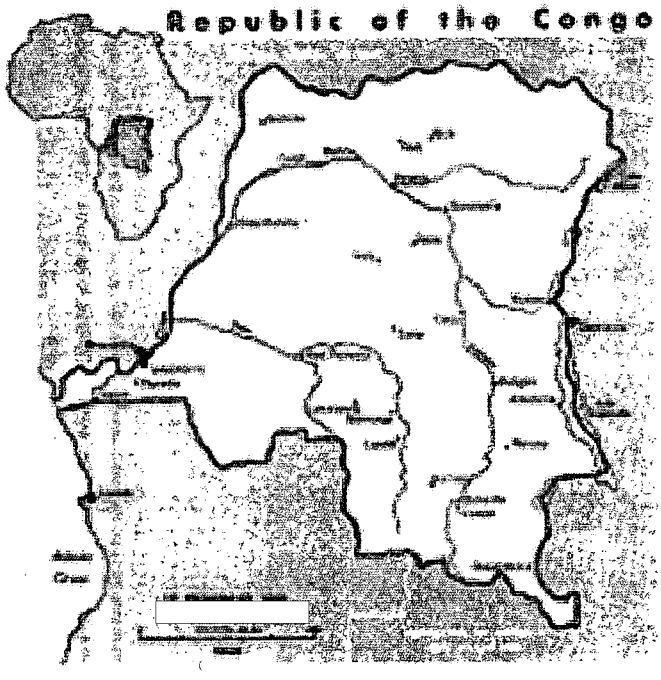
However, he was prepared to increase the Ghanaian troop contingent of 1,000 men to accomplish this objective.

Representatives of Nigeria, a leader of moderate Afro-Asian opinion, have stated that if Hammarskjold moves rapidly to take over temporary control of the Congo, Nigeria would increase its military commitment to the UN force. Otherwise, they said the Nigerian units would be withdrawn.

Sekou Touré of Guinea accused Hammarskjold of personal responsibility for Lumumba's murder. The Ethiopian demanded that Hammarskjold bring those responsible for Lumumba's death immediately to justice.

Hammarskjold reportedly sees these communications as a "letting off of steam." He apparently believes that these African and Asian leaders will realize the limited military potential and narrow mandate of the UN force and will moderate their positions.

In the Congo, although the official Katangan version of Lumumba's death is not accepted, there has not been any loud outcry. On 15 February there were minor attacks on Belgians at scattered points in the Congo. The American consul in Elisabethville believes that it is most likely that the deposed premier died in mid-January as a result of a miscalculation on the part of his captors of the amount of physical punishment he could endure. The investigating UN team --Ethiopian General Iyassu and Swiss Surete official Knecht--has made little progress against the solid opposition by Katanga authorities.



On 12 February Mobutu's force was to begin a "peaceful penetration" of areas held by Gizenga's troops, and most of his military equipment has arrived in Equateur Province by barge from Leopoldville. Mobutu's plan to "win back Stanleyville" apparently relies more heavily on disaffection among his opponents than on military operations.

(b)(3)

~~SECRET~~

Approved for Release: 2016/07/05 C06541058

Approved for Release: 2016/07/05 C06541058

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY SUMMARY

16 February 1961

In northern Katanga, Tshombé's operation against opposing tribal groups has so far met little resistance from Baluba forces, and the Katangan troops are advancing up the rail line from Luena toward Bukama. (b)(3)

* * *

Approved for Release: 2016/07/05 C06541058